

1 1. (Once Amended) A method for increasing a digital camera image capture rate,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 capturing an image upon detecting an image capture request;
4 storing the image in a memory device;
5 repeating the capturing and storing steps if another image capture request
6 is detected; [and]
7 performing image processing and compression on the image;
8 halting the image processing/compression step and returning to the
9 capturing step if another image capture request is detected; and
10 resuming the image processing/compression step after the capturing,
11 storing and repeating steps have been performed.

1 2. (Once Amended) An apparatus for increasing a digital camera image capture
2 rate, comprising:
3 means for capturing an image upon detecting an image capture request;
4 means for storing the image in a memory device;
5 means for repeating the capturing and storing if another image capture
6 request is detected; [and]
7 means for performing image processing and compression on the image;
8 means for halting the image processing and compression means and
9 returning to the capturing means if another image capture request is detected; and

10 means for resuming the image processing and compression means after the
11 capturing, storing and repeating means have been performed.

1 ~~11~~15. (Once Amended) A computer readable medium comprising program
2 instructions for:
3 capturing an image upon detecting an image capture request;
4 storing the image in a memory device;
5 repeating the capturing and storing steps if another image capture request
6 is detected; [and]
7 performing image processing and compression on the image;
1 halting the image processing and compression step and returning to the
2 capturing step if another image capture request is detected; and
3 resuming the image processing and compression step after the capturing,
4 storing and repeating steps have been performed.

Please add the following new claims 21-23.

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B1
1 21. An apparatus for increasing a digital camera capture rate, comprising:
2 an imaging device for generating raw image data responsive to an image
3 capture request;
4 a memory buffer for initially storing the raw image data;

5 first routines for conveying the initially stored raw image data away from the
6 frame buffer to a second memory location to provide space for storing additional,
7 subsequently captured images;
8 second routines for processing said raw image data and for storing said
9 processed image data; and
10 a central processing unit coupled to the imaging device and to the memory
11 buffer, for executing according to a predetermined set of priorities the first and second
12 routines;
13 wherein the first routines are assigned priority over the second routines to
14 thereby facilitate the rapid conveyance of raw image data away from the frame buffer.

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1 ~~22~~. The apparatus of claim ~~21~~¹⁶, wherein the first routines are configured to convey the
2 initially stored raw image data from the frame buffer to a RAM disk.

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1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second routines include:
2 a routine for transferring raw image data from the RAM disk to a flash memory;
3 a routine for compressing raw image data;
4 a routine for storing the compressed image data in the RAM disk; and
5 a routine for transferring the compressed image data from the RAM disk to the
6 flash memory;
7 wherein the routine for transferring raw image data from the RAM disk to a
8 flash memory has priority over the routine for compressing raw image data, the routine

9 ~~for compressing raw image data has priority over the routine for compressing raw~~
10 ~~image data, the routine for compressing raw image data has priority over the routine~~
11 ~~for storing the compressed image data in the RAM disk, and the routine for storing the~~
12 ~~compressed image data in the RAM disk has priority over the routine for transferring~~
13 ~~the compressed image data from the RAM disk to the flash memory.~~